

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
APRIL 18, 1931



From the painting by W. Langdon Kihn.

Constance Lindsay Skinner

Poet, novelist and historian, who, while staying at Alva Belmont House last week, wrote, "The Hill Bought With Arrows," which appears in this week's issue. Miss Skinner believes that Alva Belmont House should be preserved as a "foundation stone" of freedom.

Equal Rights



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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]

Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.

Introduced in the House April 25, 1929,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRATH,
Pennsylvania.

The Toad and the Butterfly

"THE toad beneath the harrow knows precisely where each tooth-point goes;" by the same token women feel keenly the injustice of a system of fundamental law which guarantees to every male citizen, regardless of race, color, religion or previous condition of servitude, the equal protection of the laws, but which denies this essential guarantee to all female citizens simply because of their sex.

"The Pathfinder," writing recently in the *Unit Journal* of Lexington, Illinois, says: "Miss Maud Younger of the National Woman's Party declares there are 1,000 laws discriminating against women still in effect in the United States—such laws as make the father sole guardian of the child, give the husband possession of the wife's earnings, even personal belongings, and the like. To wipe all these out by amendment to the Constitution giving men and women Equal Rights, she says, would be the greatest contribution this generation could make to justice.

"It would be an unreasonable person who would object now to women enjoying Equal Rights under the law. But there are many who feel that the Constitution should not be again amended to correct all those out-of-date or obsolete laws. State codes are full of them. New Jersey recently did a sensible thing by repealing about 1,000 obsolete statutes, and a society in New York is working for similar action there. The Constitution should not be disturbed when other remedies are available—even if these do take more time and labor."

Like the well-remembered "butterfly upon the road" who counseled endurance to the toad, the Pathfinder speaks out of an abyss of inexperience. How would he like it, we wonder, if his services and earnings belonged by law to his wife; if his beautiful raiment and his personal effects were not his own property at all, but instead could legally be claimed by the woman he had married, perhaps even in a moment of indiscretion; if the law denied him the primitive right to act as guardian of the child of his own flesh and gave this right to another? Would he then, butterfly that he is, still declare that "the Constitution should not be again amended to correct all of these out-of-date and obsolete laws?"

We believe that if the Pathfinder and those others like him could spend a season beneath the harrow with the toad, they would all with one accord abandon their endurance counsel and demand the immediate adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Conference Offers Feminist Opportunity

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 30 and 31, are the dates that have been decided upon for the Conference of Party workers to be held in Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the National Woman's Party. The purpose of this Conference is to afford an opportunity for all those who are actively interested in furthering the political, legal and economic interests of women to meet together and discuss ways and means for making the Feminist movement in this country more fruitful in actual results.

Women from one end of the country to the other complain that there are so few women in their Legislatures, in Congress, in public office generally. They desire recognition for their services from political leaders, but they receive none, or practically none. Other women, particularly married women, feel an urgent need for legal equality with men; they find themselves handicapped at every turn by the unequal protection of the laws and they desire the extension of the Fourteenth Amendment to their sex. But their desires do not come to anything in face of a complete indifferent public opinion.

Still, other women experience the daily inconvenience of economic inequality. They are deprived of their jobs, they receive lower wages than men for the same work, simply because they are women. Isolated as they are, unorganized, they cannot do anything about it.

The Conference of Party Workers will provide an opportunity for all women who are dissatisfied with the status quo, to talk over plans informally and to devise a program for direct Feminist action. The votes of women, at the present time, are in the main thrown away, so far as Feminist objectives are concerned. The Conference will inquire whether women cannot use their hard-won franchise more adequately to improve their own status.

As a preliminary, State chairmen are requested to determine what State, county and municipal offices are open to women in their jurisdictions and how many are occupied by women. They are also requested to prepare a brief report on the methods that have been found by them to be most effective in the practical work of party organization.

The Hill Bought With Arrows

Here on the hill is the camp, the Place of Returning:

A hill grasps the first light, and holds the last.

Sky, Arrow-Maker, shapes the flint edge of the hill,

Paints the hill like the arrow,
Red for the dawn, black for the night:

Like the sacred arrow that is ever flying
For safety by day and night,

Feathered with eagle-clouds by day,
In the darkness feathered with stars.

So is a hill ever upward flying:

It grasps the first light, it holds the last.
Here of old was the camp, the Place of Returning:

Here where today there are women singing
(As women sang of yore) the first day's song

In the many-days' ancient ritual:

"You think me unworthy,
My brethren.

But look! look and see
The length of my wigwam!"

Here, how long ago, on this hill bought
with arrows,

Men and women danced together at the harvest,

Chanted side by side in victory or woe:
Here, how long ago,

There were men and women sitting equal
in the council:

("... part of the rental return to the King being an Indian arrow" . . . from "A Glimpse Into the Historic Past of Alva Belmont House," by Burnita Shelton Matthews in *Equal Rights*, January 3, 1931.)

By Constance Lindsay Skinner

There were priest and priestess praying
equal beneath the sun—

Heart of man, heart of woman, as one
heart open

To the sacred arrows of the sun:

As one heart pierced

With the one spirit-light from the power-
beyond-the-sun:

Priest and priestess equal, chanting to the
people

The sacred Arrow Song—

"Into thy body

I shoot the spirit.

Strength has entered

Into my arrow point.

Wherever you may be,

O my brethren,

Do not speak ill of a woman.

Into thy body

I shoot the spirit."

Here is the camp, the Place of Returning,
On the hill—bought—with—arrows:

This hill grasps the first light, and holds
the last.

Faith and courage be to women

Who, now again, after the passing of ages,
Must chant the first day's song

In the ancient many-days' ritual;

"Look! Look, and see the length of my
wigwam!"

(Long, long, be the shadow of the wig-
wam!)

Courage and faith . . . for they who sing
the first song

And tire not of the fast, but wash their
hearts

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, ever purer
growing,

Shall be strong of soul to sing the last
song

Of the many-day's ancient ritual:

"Into thy body

I shoot the spirit.

What is this I promise you,

My brethren?

The skies shall be bright

And clear for you.

This is what I promise you."

Here is the camp, the Place of Returning,
On the hill—bought—with arrows.

This hill grasps the first light, and holds
the last.

NOTE: The brief lyrics quoted in this poem are from an ancient Indian ritual.

Demand Preservation of Alva Belmont House

GRACE HOFFMAN WHITE, member of the National Council of the Woman's Party, drove down from New York on April 11 to attend the National Council meeting which was held at the home of Dora G. Ogle at Catonsville, Maryland, on the afternoon of April 12. Mrs. White remained at headquarters for several days, accompanied by her guest, Constance Lindsay Skinner, who has won triple distinction as poet, historian, and novelist.

The most striking contribution which has been made to literature by Miss Skinner, who was born in the Canadian Far North, and is familiar from childhood with the manner of thought and creative expression of pioneer and Indian, has been an outlook primitive in its directness and freshness. Miss Skinner is author of two volumes in the Yale University Chronicles of America: "Pioneers of the old Southwest" and "Adventurers of Oregon." She edited the first volume of "The Pageant of America," also published by Yale University. Her novels, which have won distinguished praise in Great Britain and the United States, include "the Search Relentless" and "Red Willows." In each of these books the author

has, without once mentioning the word "feminism," shown with poetic and searching insight the surprisingly important part which women played in civilizing the frontier.

Constance Lindsay Skinner's latest work is a volume of poems, "Songs of the Coast Dwellers," which, using the method of Indian poets, give one woman's reaction to life.

Miss Skinner has been particularly interested in the Spanish background of North American history, and her contributions to our knowledge of the period have been made both through the historical series issued by Yale and through fiction. She is the author of a number of widely popular young people's books, including "The Tiger Who Walks Alone," a story of revolution in South America, and "The Ranch of the Golden Flowers," which deals with youth in California during the time of Fremont. She is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and also a Fellow of the American Geographical Society, a two-fold distinction held by few women.

It is natural that Miss Skinner's training as historian and as poet should in-

spire a two-fold interest in the historic and esthetic significance of Alva Belmont House.

"Alva Belmont House should be preserved. It is one of the beauties of the Capitol City; its site dates from the Colonial era; it is a noble and lovely example of Colonial architecture. Colonial architecture very especially crystallized the mind and spirit of that period: as the symphony in music, the epic in poetry, developed to make tangible, perceptible, potent, newly evolved forms of thought shaped of the invisible stuff of human minds.

"This house very finely typifies the Colonial spirit: steadfast, loyal in the harmony of line with line, spacious of rooms and heart, and gracious in hospitality—how brief and quick the step, for the stranger and the friend, from the drive into the wide room within—stronghold against storm; a shelter ample and staunch; a visible testament bequeathing the substance of the Good Life. In this house on Capitol Hill is exemplified the mind which prepared for freedom. It is in a very particular sense a foundation stone. It must remain!"

Constance Lindsay Skinner: Primitive and Modern

By Muna Lee

JOHN GALSWORTHY, writing critically about Constance Lindsay Skinner's "Songs of the Coast Dwellers," said, in effect, that they made the reader "dissatisfied with civilization." His point seemed to be that the vigor, passionate simplicity, and immediacy of the primitive Indian lyric which has been the source of Miss Skinner's technique realizes an art for which literature has been groping in many languages. There is no hesitancy in this art, and very little complexity; though there are haunting poetic rhythms based upon the natural rhythms of rain, wind, running water, and the eloquent strophes of mountain ridges or wave-carved shorelines; and there are the undertones, the poignant singing quality, which is the essential quality of folk-music.

For Constance Skinner's poetry is most decidedly of the realm of folk-music; though it is not a translation of Indian poems, nor is it, except occasionally and incidentally, a retelling in English verse of Indian legends. It has the folk-quality because it deals with a folk-theme: the direct expression of an individual's experiences with the material world and the world of the spirit; and it does so in the folk-manner, through the medium of lyric poetry, often intensified by the use of a refrain. It is Indian poetry, in the sense that the themes and setting are Indian; and for this the explanation doubtless lies in the fact that Miss Skinner was born

in the Far North, where her father was a Hudson Bay factor, and that her first artistic response was to the songs of the Indians whom she knew in childhood. But its essential significance lies not in the form of her poetry—which, however interesting, is, after all, merely another artistic convention—but in its essence; in the directness and vividness with which it gives a woman's ardent response to the thousand voices of life.

Elsewhere in this number we are privileged to print a poem which Constance Skinner has dedicated to Alva Belmont House, a poem written upon the occasion of her visit to "the Place of Returning," and based upon the historic fact that part of the rental return to the king for the site where Alva Belmont House now stands was an Indian arrow. The body of her poetry has been gathered into a volume, "Songs of the Coast Dwellers," published by Coward McCann, recently issued, and already the subject of highly eulogistic reviews both here and abroad.

The changing beauty of the world, its tangibles trees and birds and storms and seasons; the changeless beauty of love, whether triumphant in fruition or under the doom of eternal frustration; the proud inviolate serenity of the human spirit conscious of its own integrity: these are her themes, and frequently they overlap and coincide. But what she has to say of

these, by way of comment or interpretation, is kaleidoscopic in its rich instantaneous flashing beauty. Her art runs its gamut in a series of sharp lovely utterances, each like a crystal call. They are breath-taking sometimes in their revelations; and even more so in their implications.

Her work, primitive in one sense, is in another extremely modern: there is no gloss, no artificiality, no "intoxication with mere sound." She sets down with superb mastery of the medium the rhythms, locutions, and directness of an art which reduces itself to the essentials, but never becomes formula. In doing this Miss Skinner does not forego that heightened tension which is the essence of poetry; her simplification is never obviousness nor draining of content. It is merely the breaking of twigs and boughs which blaze one traveler's way through the dark forest.

One may praise her work for many excellences: its originality; its brilliant evidence that the difference in the "primitive mind" and the "sophisticated mind" is largely a matter of symbols; the volume and variety of her music, or the vividness and beauty of her images. I prefer to call attention rather to the manner with which she has poured, into a vessel of her own shaping from the rich durable clay of our continent, the lavish passion of one woman's fervent and generous spirit.

National Leaders Entertained in Virginia

ON APRIL 9 Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman of the Woman's Party; Muna Lee, director of National Activities; and Nina Allender, a member of the National Council, drove to Richmond, Virginia, to speak at a tea given by the Virginia Branch of the National Woman's Party. Upon their arrival the visitors from national headquarters went straight to the Capitol, where they were awaited by a delegation of Richmond members of the Woman's Party, who had made an appointment for them with Governor Pollard.

Ushered into the Governor's office, Mrs. Wiley, as spokesman, thanked the Governor for his prompt and encouraging response to her telegram requesting that he use his influence to assure industrial equality to the women of his State. It will be recalled that Governor Pollard telegraphed immediately upon its receipt that he would oppose any discriminations against wage-earning women. Mrs. Wiley assured him of the appreciation which his message had roused. Other members of

the delegation spoke briefly to the same effect.

Mrs. Wiley was a guest of Governor and Mrs. Pollard at luncheon, and at that time had the opportunity of explaining to them the nature and scope of the Woman's Party program.

At the tea, which was held in the beautiful Italian room at Miller and Rhodes, amid a profusion of spring flowers in purple, white and gold, Mrs. Robert Hudson, the Virginia State chairman, presided. Mrs. Wiley, Mrs. Allender, Miss Lee, and Mrs. Marion T. Read, secretary of the Virginia Branch, were seated with her at the speakers' table behind a cluster of tropical flowers from Florida in the Party colors. Mrs. Wiley summarized the work which has been accomplished by the Woman's Party during the past two years, stressing the importance of the great progress toward equal nationality made in Congress by passage of the Cable bill, and being achieved in Geneva under the leadership of Alice Paul.

She went into the work at headquarters in detail, and told what the Woman's

Party is doing nationally in its campaign against the discriminations that block the way of women's advancement. Miss Lee, after narrating briefly how the Woman's Party had helped women in Porto Rico win the vote, recounted the methods being employed to prevent taking jobs away from women, by legislation and regulation, during the present unemployment crisis. Nina Allender told some of her Feminist experiences in the West, and emphasized the importance of every woman's recognition of her own individuality.

Following the tea, the visitors drove around the city and saw Richmond in its loveliest garb of spring flowers, embowered in blossoming trees. That evening at the Hotel Thomas Jefferson, Mrs. Wiley, Mrs. Allender and Miss Lee conferred with Virginia members on present projects and plans for the future.

Before leaving on Friday morning, April 10, another visit was paid to the Governor's office to obtain a copy of a letter, finely expressing the Feminist point of view, written by Lady Nancy Astor to Governor Byrd, accompanying a

contemporary portrait of the Virgin Queen, which Lord and Lady Astor presented to the State of Virginia. This picture of Queen Elizabeth hangs in front of the Governor's desk, and beneath it hangs the framed letter, which reads as follows:

4 St. James Square S. W. I.
London, England.

Dear Governor Byrd:

My husband and I are sending a Christmas present to Virginia, and we hope that you will give it a place in the Capitol

House, where all Virginia can see it. It is the portrait of England's greatest Queen and Virginia's first one, Elizabeth. It is considered by experts to be a very great portrait, and is said to be by Zuschero or Zuccaro (1542-1609).

Tradition plays so large a part in the life of all Virginians that I feel it will help the women of Virginia to be reminded of Queen Elizabeth, who always put her country first and proved by her courage and ability that women can aid

in a country's greatness, even if they don't happen to be mothers; though a good mother comes nearer to God in unselfish love than anything we poor mortals know. It is good of my husband to part with this picture; but for me there is no virtue in giving anything to Virginia, which I love so dearly.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) NANCY ASTOR.

Miss Paul Makes History

"THE Inter-American Commission of Women is one of the nine leading international women's organizations which the Council of the League of Nations instructed the Secretary General of the League to invite to membership on the League Committee on the Nationality of Women," declared Doris Stevens, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, in a statement given out recently.

The official invitation from the League has arrived and Miss Stevens has just cabled acceptance of it. The Inter-American Commission of Women has appointed as its representatives on the League Committee its chairman, Miss Stevens, and Alice Paul, chairman of the Commission's Committee on Nationality. Alternates are Blanche Z. de Baralt of Cuba, and Marta Vergara, of Chile.

These and the other distinguished members of the League's Committee, will meet officially next month at the League of Nations in Geneva, to formulate their demands for equal nationality laws with men. This is the most important worldwide subject affecting women's status today.

This meeting at Geneva will mark the first time in history that the women of the world have united under governmental auspices to ask for Equal Rights with men. Women from South America and from Asia will meet with women from North America and from many of the countries of Europe to decide what they want done about their nationality.

When the Council of the League of Nations met last January, Alice Paul, chairman of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, made it clear that women all over the world were dissatisfied with the nationality convention now before governments for ratification. She asked that the League consult the wishes of women in re-drafting this convention. It was her suggestion that the Council create the committee of women which is to meet at Geneva next month.

This means that the League of Nations, for the first time since its establishment,

shows itself willing to entrust to women the task of drawing up proposals on matters which affect their own legal rights and status. The authorization of this League Committee on the Nationality of Women is a brilliant victory for the international feminist movement.

In authorizing this committee, the League's Council had as a precedent, the establishment by the Sixth Pan-American Conference, in 1928, at Havana, of the Inter-American Commission of Women to study the existing legal status of women on this hemisphere and suggest proposals for improving it. The Inter-American Commission of Women, however, is authorized to examine legal discriminations of every kind against women while the new League Committee is restricted to the single subject of nationality.

Miss Stevens, Miss Paul, Sra. de Baralt and Sra. Vergara will meet with their colleagues of Europe and Asia next month at Geneva in a conference hall which has been placed at their disposal in the League of Nations buildings. Their recommendations on women's nationality, as soon as they have been drafted, will be communicated officially by the League's secretariat to the governments of the world. The National Woman's Party of the United States is among the many Feminist organizations which has officially commended the great campaign for equal nationality rights for women being carried on at Geneva by the Inter-American Commission of Women.

The subject of women's nationality will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Assembly of the League in September. Before the Assembly meets each government will have had placed before it the exact demands of the leaders of the world's feminist movement.

This somewhat recent acceptance of women by governments in helping to write the new international law is an emphatic achievement largely due to the Inter-American Commission of Women. Three years ago, in 1928, a meeting to codify world law was announced, to be held under the auspices of the League. One of the subjects was to be women's nationality. Doris Stevens who had been

made chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women by the United States Secretary of State Kellogg, and the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union, only a few months before this, went to Geneva and asked that the Assembly of the League recommend that all governments send women plenipotentiaries to the coming conference. Women should be given an authoritative voice, Miss Stevens said, at any conference at which the status of women was to be decided. This suggestion was carried out by the Assembly. Women plenipotentiaries, the first in the history of the world, were appointed by the United States and several European countries, as a result of the League's recommendation.

The conference for the codification of international law was held in 1930, a year ago, at The Hague. On behalf of the Inter-American Commission of Women Miss Stevens led a delegation of devoted women at The Hague. In a speech before assembled delegates of the conference's Nationality Commission, the Commission pleaded that they establish in international law, for all time, the principle of complete juridical equality between the sexes in nationality. The majority of delegates from the countries of the two Americas lent their support to the principle, and when at the end of the conference a treaty was adopted based on inequality, the United States refused to sign it.

When the Assembly of the League met last September, Alice Paul, chairman of the Inter-American Commission's Committee on Nationality, asked that the treaty drafted by The Hague Conference should not be considered as the final decision of the governments of the world on the nationality of women. No government had deposited its ratification of the nationality treaty with the League. Miss Paul asked that the whole question be reconsidered.

Due to the brilliant initiative of Miss Paul, organizer of the National Woman's Party and internationally famous as a Feminist, a resolution recommending that the subject of women's nationality be reopened, was introduced before the As-

sembly. Then when the League's Council met last January, Miss Paul worked to have the Council put the subject on the agenda of the Assembly for next September. It did so. She proposed also that a

Married Women Given Support

Missoula, Montana,
Missoula Sentinel,
March 25, 1931.

DISCRIMINATION against married women in employment was condemned in resolutions formulated

by the Montana State Branch of the National Woman's Party at its annual meeting held at the Y. W. C. A. Tuesday evening.

Other business transacted included the election of officers for the ensuing year. Mrs. Claude Elder was named chairman; Mrs. Lena Richey, first vice-chairman; Mrs. Louise F. Lusk, second vice-chairman; Miss Mathilde Ammen, secretary-treasurer; Miss Louise Montfort auditor. Miss Gertrude Buckhouse and Miss Eva Ammen, members at large.

The resolutions, copies of which are to be forwarded to Governor Erickson, read as follows:

"Be it resolved, By the Montana State Branch of the National Woman's Party, that we utterly condemn the present attempts in many States by legislators, school boards, organizations and private employers to dismiss married women, or to discriminate in any way against the employment of women under the guise of the employment crisis; and be it further

"Resolved, That the recent action taken by the Montana Legislature in refusing to enact a law forbidding the employment of married women in State, county and city offices, be heartily commended."

A discussion was held on the passage of the nationality bill by Congress and

committee of women be created under the League to recommend action to this same assembly. The Council accepted this proposal which was sponsored by the three Latin-American members of the Council;

Press Comment

the international work on nationality laws being done by the various women's organizations of this and other counties. The non-passage of the jury service bill for women was deplored, and the action of the Senate in killing the bill in regard to the non-employment of women in State, county and city offices was commended.

Refreshments were served and plans were considered for a dinner to be held in May at the Y. W. C. A., with Prof. Paul C. Phillips as the principal speaker.

Night Work in Mills for Men and Women

Birmingham News,
Birmingham, Ala.,
April 5, 1931.

are discharging women from night work jobs, they do not announce they are giving these women work by day." As if that fact were not sufficient to damn the mill owners out of hand, Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman of the Woman's Party, declares: "The dismissal of married women as a policy, whether carried out by legislation or regulation, will prevent marriage and encourage divorce in these times of financial crisis when families are finding it increasingly difficult to provide for themselves adequately."

Yet both these ladies, righteous though their arguments may be in this season when both men and women workers, by reason of decreased production, are finding it increasingly hard to obtain steady

THE National Woman's Party, speaking through Miss Laura Berrien of Georgia, protests that while "cotton textile mills boast of the fact that they

Jose Matos of Guatemala, C. Zumeta of Venezuela and Jose Maria Barreto of Peru. The League Committee on the Nationality of Women which meets next month, is the result.

occupation, must agree that something is to be said for retaining employed men rather than to give them the bounce and put women in their places. Doubtless the reasons that motivated the spinners in abandoning night work for women at this time were partly economic and partly humane. Possibly when textile conditions improve a united effort by the National Woman's Party will induce the employers to transfer the males working by day to the night side, and to use female labor entirely for the day hours. That, indeed, is an objective toward which the representatives of women in the industrial world might well work assiduously. With respect to Mrs. Wiley's protests, however, against discharging women in this depression time that finds approximately 6,500,000 workers unemployed, it might be true that discharge of men workers instead of women would cause even greater martial unhappiness and divorce than would be caused the other way around.

If *The News* knows its own mind, that is not a snap judgment reminiscent of the subjection of women when the male thought himself the lord of life. The mill operators, though they may not be regarded altogether as altruists in their program, still realize that the average male worker has more dependents than the average female worker. If they have made blanket changes, this newspaper does not know. Perhaps under the serious economic conditions affecting the textile industry at this time they are doing about as well as they know how to take care of the needest cases.

Feminist Notes

Feminists Win

THE Soroptimist Club, an organization of business and professional women of New York, debated last week on the subject, "Resolved that non-self-supporting women should be kept out of business," and the negative side sponsoring work for all women who want it won by a large majority.

Each member of the thirty present was allowed one minute in which to speak for or against the subject.

The affirmative side argued that a pay check should not be the most important thing in a woman's life and that many women could achieve their greatest development in household surroundings.

The negative, led by Grace Gunn, con-

tended that no woman should be deprived of opportunities to express herself in business or the professions simply because she already was being supported. Many modern women, it was argued, needed an outlet for their energies and ambitions which often extended far beyond the home.

Can't Prohibit Women's Pictures

LEGISLATION making it unlawful to display upon billboards along public highways or in places where the public frequents "any advertisement containing the image, picture, photograph, drawing, or likeness of any female person for the purpose of advertising the use of, or sale of any tobacco, cigars, or cigarettes" would be unconstitutional, Attorney Gen-

eral Henry M. Benson of Minnesota has informed Representative Mabeth Hurd Paige, chairman of the Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Public Welfare, according to a report in the *United States Daily* of April 3.

Quebec Defeats Equality

LATE in March the Quebec Legislature twice struck at the Equal Rights campaign of the women of that Canadian province.

On March 25 the Legislature defeated, by a vote of 47 to 21, a bill to give women the vote, and the next day defeated, by two votes, a bill to allow women to practice law in Quebec province.

"Quaint Quebec" appropriately enough!

Making a Career

HELEN WOODS of Northampton, Massachusetts, is known as the "Lady of the Lamps," and this is an excellent title, for she has created a new art and a large business in designing and painting personal lampshades.

She was a trained designer, a commercial artist particularly interested in portraiture, when, in 1925, a friend asked her to design a lamp for a difficult spot in an old home. Mrs. Woods visited the home, fell in love with the authentic antiques, and designed a series of lamps for the house to go with its upholstery, decoration, history, and personality. They delighted the friend and started Mrs. Woods off on her business career.

Now she employs sixteen girls and keeps them busy, stitching, stretching, pasting, and delivering. She is the inventor of a lampshade known as the shadow-shade; that is, a lamp made of two layers of silk which does not show its design until the lamp is lighted. She was also the first to make the top shade; that is, to add a layer of silk across the top of a lamp to eliminate the spot of light on the ceiling and the glare on people's faces.

She spends a great deal of time in research into the surroundings for her lamps and into the personality and tastes of her prospective purchasers before she even designs her lamps.

No Place for a Woman!

SIR CHARLES HOWELL THOMAS, permanent secretary to the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, recently told the Royal Commission that women should not be appointed inspectors in his departments of the government "because the environment of some of the work was not suitable." The duties include going to sea on trawlers and questioning farmers—quite unsuitable! "The time has not yet come for women inspectors," Sir Thomas said.

Lord Tomlin replied, "Will the time ever come if you do not make a start? Unless you begin to do it, you never will, because it will never be the time."

Concerning this debate, *Opportunity* said:

"Considering the activities of women on the land in wartime we do not hesitate to say that a woman inspector, given a trial, would be able to prove efficient. Regarding the trawler question, there is already a French fishing boat 'manned' entirely by women, and as many women are capable yachtsmen, any difficulty in that direction would be speedily overcome. And when it is remembered that, at the present time, agriculture ranks as the second largest employment of women, the notion that there are not yet enough women employed therein to warrant appointment of woman inspectors is rather fantastic."

Flighty Women!

UP in the air! And away up too, went Elinor Smith and Amelia Earhart last week.

Elinor Smith, former holder of the world's altitude and duration flight records for women, undaunted by falling 20,000 feet a few weeks ago while attempting a new record, climbed to 32,500 feet on April 9.

Her record is not yet official but when the recording altimeter is tested by the Bureau of Standards it will probably show that she has far outdistanced the previous record of 28,743 feet held by Ruth Nichols. And she may have bettered the American record for commercial planes now held by George Haldeman.

Telling her own story of the flight, Miss Smith said the temperature was about 18 below zero with ice all over her breathing apparatus and the oxygen tube. When at 32,500 feet, her motor sputtered and she found she had only enough fuel for fifteen more minutes she said:

"I thought I would call it a day and so started for home. That's about all there is to it."

Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly an autogiro plane, took her weird, wind-mill-like plane into the air on March 10 and soared to a height of 19,000 feet. When her records are checked, this altitude will establish a record for both men and women. The unofficial "ceiling" for men now is 18,000 feet.

Miss Earhart made two flights, the first to a height of 18,500 feet and the second to 19,000. She was up altogether for almost four hours.

And Arthur Brisbane, in his column syndicated throughout the country says:

"Considering their limited opportunities and the general inclination to discourage women to do something serious, the women do better than men in the air."

Women Radio Operators

THE number of women amateur radio operators granted licenses by the Radio Division of the Department of Commerce is steadily increasing and there are now eighty-six licensed women operators in the United States and Alaska.

These eighty-six are terrifically outnumbered by about 18,000 men operators.

In the commercial field there are at present only eight women operators in the country. These are Lois Crawford of Iowa, June Wesley Gullett of Mississippi, Mary T. Loomis and Barbara Russell of Washington, D. C., Lena I. Michelsen of New York, Anna Mae Ullman of Washington, Verna Alvis Welsh of Texas, and Elizabeth F. White of Louisiana.

The amateur radio association in this country began "to take" about 1910. An amateur is defined by the Federal Radio Commission as "one who seeks to gain no profit from radio."

Because of the potential use to be made of amateurs in times of military necessity, all amateurs in the United States are licensed, and one of the first requirements for such a license is a knowledge of the international wireless telegraphic code signals.

There is a great deal of radio "talk" between amateurs in this country and foreign nations by signals or "phones," so Gladys Jane Barker in Houston, Texas, may talk with Merion C. Culkins in Tujunga, California, or Rhea Johnson at Hialeah, Florida, or even with Lily Osterback on Wasnessenski Island, Unga, Alaska. The eighty-six licensed women amateurs are scattered throughout every State in this country.

Deep-Sea Diver

A NEW vocation for women, that of "deep-sea diver," is now suggested by one who should know—Gloria Hollister, a woman deep-sea diver.

For the last two years Miss Hollister has worked as a member of the staff of Dr. William Beebe in his research in West Indian waters. In May she will return to Non-Such Island for another nine months' season with Dr. Beebe's expedition.

She recently appeared before the Chicago Woman's Club to show pictures of the fantastic life found in the lower regions of tropical water. She described her work simply saying:

"You put on a diving helmet that weighs about twenty pounds. It's very simple. A hose is attached to it and some one in the boat pumps air down to you. Then you're free to wander about at will in a world quite different from ours without horizon, sky, or shadows, but with plenty of sunlight."

Another First!

ODETTE MYRTIL, well-known violinist and dancer, is said to be the first woman conductor of a dance orchestra in London. She is a success, too.

Who Was Responsible?

MAYBE, they haven't heard of equality and Equal Rights in China, or maybe they don't care. Anyhow, a Chinese barber in Shanghai was fined because another man beat his wife because the barber bobbed her hair—and thereby hangs a queue.

The answer to this problem seems to be that a woman in China cannot have her hair bobbed without the consent and knowledge of her husband. If an irate and deceived husband beats his disobedient wife, the barber is liable to a fine for not finding out if his client had obtained marital permission for the hair-cutting.

Just this happened under a rather recent ruling of the Shanghai District Court. A wife had pleaded with her hus-

band on many occasions to let her be fashionable and comfortable in the summer heat with bobbed hair. The stern husband

refused, saying bobbed hair was immodest, but the wife was weak—or maybe brave—and she had it bobbed anyway.

The husband was fined \$1 for beating his wife upon his return home, and the barber was fined \$2.

News from the Field

Hawaii Hears Equal Rights Arguments

A FORMER suffrage leader convinced herself of the necessity of the Equal Rights Amendment, and doubtless at the same time convinced many people in Hawaii.

Elizabeth Green, known to Woman's Party suffrage workers as Elizabeth Green Kalb, now editor of the magazine published by the Institute of Pacific Relations in Honolulu, was asked by the Honolulu League of Women Voters to discuss the Equal Rights Amendment. In writing to Emma Wold of the Woman's Party about it, Miss Green said:

"My first response was to the effect that I did not consider myself sufficiently committed to the Equal Rights Amendment plan to do justice to the subject, and especially so since I had not been in close touch with the development of the Equal Rights work since I left Washington in 1921. . . . These arguments brought me quite up to date, I believe, and supplied all the necessary conviction with which I wished to speak. It was really an interesting meeting and, I believe, won some individual converts."

The Honolulu *Star Bulletin* of March 4 carried the following account of the meeting:

"Members of the League of Women Voters heard proponents on both sides speak on the 'Equal Rights Amendment' at the regular meeting Tuesday afternoon in Pa Hauli.

"The proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution, which is being backed by the National Woman's Party, seeks to give equality to women by Federal rather than by State legislation as at present.

"Speaking in favor of the amendment, Miss Elizabeth Greene pointed out that by making the action Federal women could concentrate their entire efforts on one law-making body instead of having to spread it over the many State Legislatures. The issue is important enough to merit Federal statement, she said, and uniformity is needed throughout the country.

"Answering the point oftenest brought against the suggestion, that such an amendment would remove all the favorable discriminatory laws for women, she stated that equal treatment was not the same as identical treatment, and that the intent of existing laws, which was to create equality for women, probably would be retained.

"A paper by Mrs. Jeannette Hyde, opposing the plan, was read by Mrs. George P. Cooke. This paper brought out the difficulties involved in using any Federal

amendment as a means of achieving a desired end.

"Mrs. Henry Damon, president, gave the stand of the National League of Women Voters on the proposal, which is based primarily on the lack of definition of the words 'equal rights' and the lack of standards.

"Dr. Paul Bachman, University of Hawaii, discussed the measure impartially from the standpoint of constitutional law. He stated as his personal opinion the belief that the law was poorly worded, in that it was a positive and not a negative statement. As a positive statement it throws the necessity of action on Congress, which he believed would evade the issues and do nothing about it.

"If the law were to be negatively worded, such, for instance, as 'No woman shall be denied equal treatment before the law,' then the burden of action would be placed on the Supreme Court to see that State laws were not out of harmony."

Debaters Entertained

A LVA BELMONT HOUSE was the scene of a charming entertainment of two Latin-American debating teams on April 15, when Muna Lee, director of national activities, who is on leave from her place on the faculty of the University of Porto Rico, gave a tea for the Porto Rican and Mexican debating teams then in the United States.

The Porto Rican team came from a victorious tour of the United States and Canada, and the Mexican Government sent the Mexican team to Washington to debate them.

The Ambassador of Mexico, Manuel C. Tellez, and Sra. Tellez, the Commissioner of Porto Rico, Felix Cordova Davila, and Sra. Cordova Davila, Dr. Leo S. Rowe, director of the Pan-American Union, Prof. Thomas E. Benner of Columbia University, who has been accompanying the debaters, President and Mrs. Cloyd Heck Marvin of George Washington University, were among the distinguished guests in the receiving line.

Ellen La Motte Speaks at Headquarters

E LLEN LA MOTTE, authority on opium traffic both at home and in the Orient (where she was decorated by the Chinese Government with the Lin Medal in recognition of her work against the opium traffic), is also one of our most popular magazine writers. An April issue carries her story of the coronation of the Emperor of Abyssinia, on which subject she gave a most interesting and amusing talk.

A Chinese musical program was given by Chuan Wha Han of the Peabody Musical Institute, assisted by Yah Wang of George Washington University and other members of the Chinese Student Club in compliment to Miss La Motte.

Mrs. Paul Myron Linebarger, District of Columbia chairman, was hostess, assisted by the District board. Pouring tea were Mrs. Frank Loesch, Mme. Mei, Mrs. Frank Mondell, Sally Pickett, and Lucy Wilder Norris. Other guests of honor were Mrs. El Crain Chadbourne, Mrs. Perry Heath, Genevieve Wimsatt, Mrs. Charles Lobingier, Janet Richards, Mrs. Theodore Shuey, Mrs. Thomas Wailes, Mrs. Charles Williamson, Clara McQueen, and Constance Lindsay Skinner.

Mrs. Matthews to Enter Movies

BURNITA SHELTON MATTHEWS, chairman of the Lawyers' Council of the National Woman's Party, has been asked by the Pathé Moving Picture Company to make a movietone talk on the conclusions drawn from her nation-wide survey of divorce laws. As our members know, Mrs. Matthews directed for the Woman's Party an investigation as to the legal status of women throughout the United States. A recent interview with her secured by a representative of the *United Press* was published in the press all over the country and ended with her survey of our divorce laws. The director of Pathé pictures saw the newspaper story and at once got in touch with Mrs. Matthews and requested that she "go into the movies."

Fanny Bunand to Exhibit

MADEMOISELLE FANNY BUNAND-SEVASTOS, executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women and vice-chairman of the Young Women's Council of the National Woman's Party, and Miss Angela Gregory of New Orleans, also a member of the Young Women's Council, are holding a joint exhibition of painting and sculpture at the Arts Club in Washington, 2017 I street N. W. The exhibition will be open from April 19 to May 2. On Sunday afternoon, April 19, Mrs. Nina Allender, a member of the National Council of the Woman's Party, will be hostess at a tea at the Arts Club, honoring Miss Bunand-Sevastos and officially opening the exhibition.

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